



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

October 19, 2015

Mr. Thomas Bonetti,  
Natural Resource Planner  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
300 Westgate Center Drive  
Hadley, MA 01035

Re: Final Environmental Impact Statement, Chincoteague and Wallops Island National Wildlife Refuges Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement August 2015, Chincoteague, Virginia CEQ# 20150262

Dear Mr. Bonetti:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Chincoteague and Wallops Island National Wildlife Refuges Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). In our letter dated August 14, 2014 we rated the Draft Environmental Impact Statement Lack of Objection. Alternative B is the preferred alternative selected in the FEIS. Based on our review and the responses to our letter we have no objection to the project.

Please continue to work with EPA and other stakeholders as the Record of Decision and additional NEPA analysis for the various components moves forward. Please include EPA in the scoping and planning process for future studies done in accordance with NEPA. In addition to the other sources used in the DEIS, we also suggest that FWS consider the Council on Environmental Quality's December 2014 revised draft guidance for Federal agencies' consideration of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and climate change impacts in NEPA.

Thank you for providing EPA with the opportunity to review this project. If you have questions regarding these comments, the staff contact for this project is Barbara Okorn; she can be reached at 215-814-3330.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Barbara Rudnick", is written over a horizontal line.

Barbara Rudnick  
NEPA Team Leader  
Office of Environmental Programs